

Morris K. Udall Foundation Native American Internship

Overview of Expectations

What is the educational goal of the program?

- ❖ The Foundation program materials state:
 - The NAI gives students an opportunity to learn about the federal government from the inside
 - To observe government decision-making processes on a daily basis
- ❖ Practically speaking, the goals are:
 - Learn the authorization process
 - Learn the appropriation process
 - Build a network of contacts

How does the Foundation assist interns in the learning process?

- ❖ Matching intern skills to the needs of the offices in which they are placed
- ❖ An orientation to Washington D.C. and the program
- ❖ Organized briefings about the basics of budgeting and the legislative process
- ❖ Meetings with Washington D.C. policy makers
- ❖ Ongoing advice and counsel about professional and personal issues

What is the best result of an internship?

- ❖ An intern who has learned the basics of the process
- ❖ An intern who feels fulfilled by the experience
- ❖ An intern has been positive about the learning experience throughout the internship
- ❖ An intern who has built a useful network of contacts
- ❖ An intern who pursues using this knowledge to better his/her tribe

What are the characteristics of the most successful students?

- ❖ Well-developed research and writing skills
- ❖ Flexibility in adjusting to a new environment and learning "how it really works"
- ❖ Has initiative, is mature, and demonstrates responsibility
- ❖ Ability to organize time during an intensive 10-week period
- ❖ Can work well with the group dynamics of dormitory life
- ❖ Understands parts of the legislative process may be distasteful to them, but wishes to learn as much as possible anyway
- ❖ Understands that everyone must participate in meetings and briefings
- ❖ Understand that their role as an intern is non-political.